Unlocked

Test your Judgement Activity

Well done – you have taken the first step towards leading reform from the inside and reducing reoffending in the prison system as a prison officer.

Being a prison officer requires a unique combination of attributes. You will need to make decisions in high-pressured situations considering several factors and you will need to maintain a balance of authority, fairness and warmth in your approach to those that you work with.

This activity provides you with some insight into the scenarios you will be faced with in the role and asks you to make a hypothetical decision on how you would act. This is assessing your ability to respond to incidents and display our attributes in your actions.

Each scenario will be accompanied by an animation which will look like this:



You will be given three options and will need to select the Most Likely and Least Likely course of action you would take.

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Hints & Tips

- **Be prepared** make sure you have the correct equipment and the sound is working on your device.
- **Find a quiet space** you will need to concentrate so try to find somewhere you won't be disturbed.
- **Take your time** there's no time limit on the exercise so think about each scenario carefully and replay the animation as many times as you like.
- Forget outside knowledge you don't need to have any prison knowledge to succeed in this activity so don't worry about knowing anything in advance.
- **Trust your instinct** don't be afraid to go with your gut response as this is most reflective of what you would do in a situation.
- Consider the options you may think you would do something completely different but please choose from the options you are given.
- Watch our videos there's loads of material on our website with participants talking about their experiences on the programme – do watch these to give you some insight.
- Enjoy it this activity gives some great insight into what life is like on the Unlocked programme so enjoy yourself and learn more about being a prison officer.

There might be some terminology in the activity that you haven't heard before. Here's some key words and a description to help you.

Term	Description
Cell	Room where prisoner stays, normally with another person. This is where they keep their personal belongings.
Wing	Large building block within a prison that normally houses between 100-500 prisoners each.
Landing	A floor inside a wing; normally 3-5 landings in each wing.
Unit	Another name for a wing or a building/section of a prison.

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Term	Description
Servery	Area of the wing where prisoners collect their food; normally managed and run by a group of prisoners.
Viewing window	A glass panel or window through which you can observe what is going on in a room.
Headcount	The process in which prison officers count the number of prisoners that are currently on the landing or wing.
Youth estate	Part of the prison estate that houses children under 18 who are serving a custodial sentence.

Make sure you get in touch with the recruitment team if you have any technical issues with the activity by emailing recruitment@unlockedgrads.org.uk

Best of luck!

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